



A N N U A L R E P O R T

for the

Y E A R 1 9 3 8

on the

HEALTH OF TORPOINT

- By -

F. P. LAUDER,

L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., D.P.H. (Ed.),

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



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COUNCIL OFFICES,
TORPOINT,
CORNWALL.

September, 1939.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
of the
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF TORPOINT.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Health of Torpoint for 1938.

The live birth rate of the District is lower than for 1937 being 13.00 per 1,000 population, compared with 15.10 for England and Wales; and also compared with 15.00 for 1937 for Torpoint.

The death rate of the District is 15.84 and is much higher than that of England and Wales which is 11.60.

The high figure in the death rate as compared with that of England and Wales is due to deaths from senility. Majority of cases were from the Torpoint Public Institution.

The infant mortality and still birth rates are much lower than those of England and Wales, there being only one still-birth during the year.

There have been no deaths in consequence of child-birth; one infant under one year of age died.

There were 5 deaths from Cancer, and 1 new case of Tuberculosis and one death.

No houses have been erected by the Council since my last Report but overcrowding is non-existent at present. At the same time there is a lack of modern conveniences (such as bathrooms) in the older type of working class houses. The rental of the new houses which have recently been erected by private enterprise is beyond the means of the ordinary working man.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

F.P. LAUDER,
Medical Officer of Health.

A N N U A L R E P O R T .

1 9 3 8 .

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) - 1324.
Population at 1931 census - 3971.
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident population 1938 - 3724
Number of inhabited houses - 918.
Number of families or separate occupiers - 1164.
Rateable value £21,660.
Sum represented by a penny rate - £90.
Social conditions, chief occupations of the inhabitants,
and the influence of any particular occupation on the
public health - No change.

Extracts from vital statistics of the year :-

	Total	M.	F.	) birth rate per
				) thousand of the
Live births - Legitimate	46	25	21	) estimated resident
Illegitimate	4	2	2	) population - 13.00
)
				) rate per thousand
Still births - Legitimate	1	1	0	) total (live and
Illegitimate				) still-births) .02
)
				) Death rate per
				) thousand of the
Deaths -	59	24	35	) estimated resident
				) population - 15.84
Deaths from diseases and)	From Sepsis -			Nil.
accidents of Pregnancy)				
and Child-birth)	From other causes -			Nil.

This, again, reflects great credit on the medical and
Midwifery professions.

Death rate of infants under one year of age :- 1 Female = 1.

All infants per thousand live-births -	.05
Legitimate infants per thousand)	.05
legitimate live-births)	
Illegitimate infants per thousand)	
illegitimate live-births) -	Nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) -	Nil.
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	1 Female.
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) -	Nil.

There were 5 deaths from Cancer in 1938 in the District,
4 females and 1 male.

All measures practicable for treatment of Measles,
Influenza and Whooping Cough, under the Public Health Acts,
have been authorised by the Council, including Hospital,
Medical and Nursing assistance.

We are again indebted to the Naval Health Officer for
weekly returns of infectious diseases in the Port.



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GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Sanitary Authority or by the County Council :-

- A. (1) Fever. As in 1929.
(2) Smallpox. As in 1929.
- B. (1) Tuberculosis :
(a) Pulmonary. As in 1929.
(b) Non-Pulmonary. As in 1929.
- (2) Maternity. As in 1929.
(3) Children. As in 1929.
(4) Other. As in 1929.

Institutional provision for unmarried mothers, Illegitimate infants, and homeless children in the area - as in 1929.

Ambulance facilities As in 1929.

Clinics and Treatment Centres :-

There is no Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, Day Nursery, School Clinic, Orthopaedic Clinic, or Artificial Light Clinic available in the District.

Tuberculosis Dispensaries and Treatment centres are as in 1929.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :-

Medical Officer of Health :- F.P. Lauder, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.,
D.P.H. (Ed.), Tregantle Fort,
near Torpoint. Part time.
£32.10s.0d. Salary Contribution
by Exchequer Grants.

Sanitary Inspector :- George Rodley, M.I.M. & Cy.E.,
A.R.San.I. Also Surveyor and
Water Engineer. Part time.
£82.10s.0d. Salary contribution
by Exchequer Grant. 7 Coryton
Terrace, Torpoint, and Council
Chambers, Torpoint.
'Phone :- Torpoint 10.

Nursing in the Home :-

(a) Torpoint and District Nursing Association is
affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

(b) Infectious Diseases (Measles, etc.) - Nursing can be
arranged by the Medical Officer of Health, and is
provided by the Sanitary Authority.

Midwives :-

Torpoint and District Nursing Association is subsidised by the Sanitary Authority, and employs a midwife. One midwife practises in the District.

Maternity and Nursing Homes :-

The County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under Acts relating to the registration of Maternity and other Nursing Homes.

Infectious Diseases :-

In accordance with the Scheme prepared by the Cornwall County Council and approved by the Ministry of Health on February 9th, 1935, the Council have, in conjunction with the Borough of Saltash and the Rural District Council of St. Germans, entered into an agreement with the City Council of Plymouth for accommodation for 13 Beds to be reserved for patients from the Borough, Urban and Rural Councils jointly.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(A) Water Supplies - The quantity and quality have again proved excellent during 1938. Chlorination was done as a precautionary measure. It was not necessary to curtail supply by night, during the year. Negotiations are proceeding with the South East Cornwall Water Board for an augmented supply.

(B) Rivers and Streams are specially inspected to detect any pollution which might be present or threatened.

(C) Drainage and Sewerage - There were no extensions but a scheme is under consideration for replacement of a septic tank by a sewage pumping station.

(D) Closet System - No change since 1929.

(E) Scavenging. 53 new refuse bins were provided in 1938.

Disposal of Dry Refuse :-

The requirements of the Ministry of Health are being complied with, and controlled tipping is being carried out. A site is being levelled up, which will eventually become a Pleasure Ground adjacent to the Council's other Pleasure Grounds.

(F) Sanitary Inspection of the Area :-

(a) The total number of inspections in 1938 was 429.

(b) Informal notices and personal interviews 87.

No Statutory Notices were served.

(c) 83 were remedied. 4 work in hand.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector, 1938 :-

Visits to premises	...	...	468
Tests applied to house drains	...	...	27
Notices served to abate nuisances	...	...	42
Notices complied with	...	...	38
Visits to premises in connection with infectious diseases	...	...	10
Premises disinfected	...	...	14

Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	215
Inspection of Slaughter houses		258

GENERAL SANITARY WORK EFFECTED.

Number of drains laid or repaired	...	33
Choked drains cleared	... ..	9
Soil pipes and vent shafts fixed or repaired	... ..	26
New water-closet pans fixed	...	32
Inspection chambers constructed (new)		28
Flush cisterns fixed or repaired	...	39
Surface of courtyards, etc., relaid or repaired	... ..	2
Refuse bins provided	... ..	53

(G) Smoke Abatement - As in 1929.

(H) Premises and occupations which can be controlled by
Bye-laws or Regulations :-

Travelling shows are not encouraged to set
up in the Town.

(I) Other sanitary conditions requiring notice - Nil.
Arrangements for disposal of the dead - As in 1937.

(J) Schools :- No defects were reported, and the general
cleanliness is good. Towels, cloak rooms, and
lavatory basins and water closets are in a cleanly
state. Water supply is adequate.

T A B L E 1.

VACCINATION RETURNS.

T O R P O I N T.

Years	Births	Vaccinated	Returns not received	Died	Conscientious Objectors	Vaccinated %
1929	47	19			20	40
1930	43	16			20	37
1931	66	15			32	23
1932	43	3	15	1	24	7
1933	71	11	16	4	34	15
1934	56	5	16	1	34	9
1935	40	5	3	2	30	12½
1936	51	3	12	1	35	6
1937	56	4	21	1	30	7
1938	50	2	10	0	38	4

H O U S I N G.

The Chief points noted in the Inspections were :-

Damp walls.
Leaky roofs.
Defective flues.
Defective W.C. cisterns.
" wooden floors.
" Light and ventilation.

The general cleanliness of the houses was good.

THE COUNCIL HAVE BUILT NO HOUSES.

T A B L E 2.

NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Total including numbers given separately under (b)	26
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :-	
(1) By the Local Authority 	Nil.
(2) By other bodies or persons 	Nil.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) 	429
(2) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925) ...	403

- (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be
in a state so dangerous or injurious
to health as to be unfit for human
habitation ... Nil.
- (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of
those referred to under the preceding
sub-head) found not to be in all
respects fit for human habitation 15.

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE
OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses
rendered fit in consequence of informal
action by the Local Authority or their
Officers ... 27.

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

A. Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which notices were served requiring
repairs ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were
rendered fit after service of formal
notices :-

(a) By Owners ... Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of
Owners ... Nil.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which Closing Orders became operative
in pursuance of declaration by Owners
of intention to close ... Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which notices were served requiring
defects to be remedied ... 31.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects
were remedied after service of
formal notices :-

(a) By Owners ... 29.

(b) By Local Authority in default of
Owners ... Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the
Housing Act, 1930 :-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of
which Demolition Orders were made Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in
pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.

D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing
Act, 1930 :-

(1) Number of separate tenements or under-
ground rooms in respect of which
Closing Orders were made ... Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil.

E. Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-

(a) By Owners ... Nil.

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil.

F. Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15, of the Housing Act, 1925 :-

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit ... Nil.

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made. Nil.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply :-

Inspection of Farms and Dairies were made as follows :-

Farms	...	24.
Dairies and Milkshops	...	242.
Number of Dairy Farms	...	3.
" " Dairies and Milkshops		9.

The Structural requirements under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, are fulfilled.

No matters arose under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1923, to which we might call attention.

Eight samples of milk were taken and found to be of good quality.

(b) Meat and other Foods :-

There are three registered Slaughter-houses as in 1930.

257 Inspections of slaughter-houses were made in 1938.

Meat Shops (4).

There are no Stalls, and all meat is kept behind windows.

Two Fried Fish Shops are under constant supervision.

(c) Adulteration, etc. :-

No cases of food or milk adulteration have been reported.

No action was taken in 1935 under the Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations 1923 and 1927, and Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations 1923 and 1927.

The milk and Dairies Orders are efficiently carried out.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food :-

No samples have been sent for analysis.

(e) Nutrition :-

Beyond literature issued by the Health and Cleanliness Council, no action taken.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS
AND OTHER DISEASES.

G E N E R A L.

There were 22 cases of infectious disease notified in 1938, of which 9 Scarlet Fever, 3 Erysipelas, 7 Pneumonia and 1 Diphtheria. There were 3 deaths from Pneumonia.

Anti-toxic Sera and outfits are stocked at the local Chemist's shop.

There were 2 sputa examined for tubercle bacilli, in which one was returned as positive.

There was no blood examined for typhoid or paratyphoid.

There is no Maternity and Child Welfare Centre in Torpoint.

Diagnostic tests or immunisation against scarlet fever and diphtheria could or can be carried out, and the free facilities offered by the Council, through the Medical Officer of Health, of the Schick and Dick tests respectively for these diseases and immunisation against them are not availed of by the public.

No persons presented themselves or were sent, for primary vaccinations, or re-vaccinations by the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

There are no facilities for the disinfection of verminous persons or their belongings or for the disinfection of articles exposed to infection, other than formalin vapour, but there have been no "return" cases of scarlet or other fevers after formalin disinfecting of the rooms, clothing, etc.

BRANCH LIBRARY.

The Librarian is informed of every case of infection in the home and books are destroyed and a certificate given to the Local Librarian.

T A B L E 3.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS)
DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Disease.	Total cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	9	9	-
Diphtheria	1	1	-
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Pneumonia	7	-	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-

Prevention of Blindness :-

No action was taken for the prevention of Blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from disease or injury to the eyes, under Section 66 of the Public Health Amendment Act, 1928.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum :-

One case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified, (an infant).

Tuberculosis :-

There was one new case and one death in 1938.

There were on the Tuberculosis Register in :-

March, 1938.	June, 1938.	September, 1938.	December, 1938.
11 Pulmonary	10 Pulmonary	10 Pulmonary	8 Pulmonary
9 Non- do.	9 Non- do.	9 Non- do.	8 Non- do.

T U B E R C U L O S I S 1938.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Total	Deaths.				Total
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female	
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
49	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and Upwards	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	1	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1

T A B L E 5.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories, (including Factory Laundries)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Workshops, (including Workshop Laundries)	9	Nil	Nil
Workplaces, (other than outworkers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	9	Nil	Nil

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	Number of offences in respect to which Prosecu- tions were instituted. (5)
<u>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :-*</u>				
Want of Cleanliness				
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of Drainage of floors				
Other Nuisances (insufficient (Sanitary (unsuitable or accommo- (defective. dation. ((not separate (for sexes				
<u>Offences under the Factory and Work- shop Acts :-</u>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake- house (s. 101)				
Other offences (Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections men- tioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops transfer of Powers, Order, 1921).				
	NIL.	NIL.	NIL.	NIL.

* Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

T A B L E 6.

A P P E N D I X.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

TORPOINT U.D., 1938.

Causes of Death			M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	24	35
1 Typhoid and Para-Typhoid	...	...
2 Measles	...	...
3 Scarlet Fever	...	...
4 Whooping cough	...	...		1
5 Diphtheria	...	...
6 Influenza	...	...	1	1
7 Encephalitis lethargica	...	...
8 Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...
9 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...	...	1	1
10 Other Tuberculosis	...	...
11 Syphilis	...	...
12 G.P.I. Tabes, etc.	...	...
13 Cancer, malignant diseases	...	...	1	4
14 Diabetes	...	...		2
15 Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	...	...	1	6
16 Heart disease	...	...	8	3
17 Aneurysm	...	...
18 Other circulatory diseases	...	...	2	
19 Bronchitis	...	...	2	
20 Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	1	2
21 Other respiratory diseases	...	...
22 Peptic Ulcer	...	...	3	
23 Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...
24 Appendicitis	...	...	1	
25 Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...
26 Other Diseases of Liver	...	...		1
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...		2
28 Acute and chronic nephritis	...	...		1
29 Puerperal sepsis	...	...
30 Other Puerperal Diseases	...	...
31 Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth	...	...
32 Senility	...	...	1	9
33 Suicide	...	...

A P P E N D I X (Contd.).

Causes of Death		M.	F.
34 Other deaths from violence	...		
35 Other defined diseases	...	2	2
36 Causes ill-defined or unknown	...		
Special Causes (included above).			
Poliomyelitis	...	Nil	Nil
Polioencephalitis	...	Nil	Nil

General Register Office,
Somerset House,
London, W.C.2.

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE, AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1938.
(PROVISIONAL FIGURES).

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population.		Annual Death-Rate per 1,000 Population.										Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under 1 year		
England and Wales	15.1	0.60	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.11	5.5	53		
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London.	15.0	0.65	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.10	7.8	57		
148 Smaller Towns (Estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census 1931).	15.4	0.60	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.11	3.6	51		
London	13.4	0.48	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.06	13.1	57		

